

Dear independent artists and culture makers in Berlin,

All of us are affected by the coronavirus lockdown in Berlin, as is everyone in Germany and beyond. While the first easings of the restrictions have come, the song remains the same: theaters and concert venues are closed, planned tours have been cancelled, project spaces cannot host projects and there are no festivals, readings or concerts. For many of us this means that we are unable to earn much or even any money. Some of us are facing bankruptcy.

In light of this, an interdisciplinary initiative has come into being that is planning the Niemandkommt festival on July 24, 2020, inspired by the Keinerkommt festival in Hamburg (www.keinerkommt.de). On this day, Berlin-based artists working in all disciplines will put on the (fictitious) festival of the summer by not showing up and not providing any online content, either. Tickets will be sold to support our independent arts community – and all of the money made will go to those independent artists in Berlin who are the most in need.

Many prominent artists and collectives working in all disciplines such as She She Pop, Sasha Waltz, Sharon Dodua Otoo and Kathrin Röggla have already joined us or have been invited. We would be delighted if you would be a part of this and demonstrate it by not coming, but instead by showing solidarity – after all, Berlin's independent arts community is one-of-a-kind and is shaped by every single one of us and the festival needs to reflect that, too!

Will you join us? If yes, please send an email by May 29, 2020 to <mailto:info@niemandkommt.de> with "YES" in the subject and your professional title and discipline (artist name, group name, et cetera). Then we'll be able to put your name on the website.

And if you are facing extreme financial hardship, we warmly invite you to send us an application for support. Detailed information will be available shortly and the festival website with all information will go live on June 1, 2020, at the latest.

We're looking forward to you taking part and not showing up,

The Niemandkommt festival team

Ulrike Badke, Naomi Boyce, Daniel Brunet, Susanne Foellmer, Elisa Müller, Paul Netzer, Torsten Oelscher, Sarah Rosenau, Jenny Schrödl and Casey Tower